**Microsoft European Search Technology Centre Announcement**

**Quotes**

**2 October 2008**

European Union/EU Presidency

**José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission**

“The public sector can make a real contribution, but only in partnership with the private sector.  That’s why I am delighted to welcome Microsoft’s decision to open new R&D facilities in three member states. For such a key global player as Microsoft to increase its R&D investments so substantially is a real vote of confidence in Europe and in European research excellence.”

**Christine Lagarde, Minister of Finance, France**

"Microsoft’s decision to create an important R&D center dedicated to search in Europe, with a strong presence in France, is a first which we salute. This is good news for the European Union, which decided long ago, with the Lisbon strategy, to go down the road of the knowledge-based economy. This is also good news for France, which has given itself the wherewithal to attract and host high added-value activities, in particular thanks to its research tax credit, which is among the most attractive in the world.”

**Ján Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth**

“If Europe is to successfully face the challenges of our increasingly knowledge-based economy, it is important that we increase the role of enterprise in education, especially higher education and research. The funding gap in higher education between the EU and the USA is around €10,000 per student per year — and almost all of this is accounted for by the difference in private sector spending, especially from business enterprises. Initiatives such as the recently-launched European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) are specifically designed to involve business as partners with higher education and research establishments, so there are concrete steps under way to increase the role that business enterprise can play in education and research. The R&D investments that Microsoft is announcing today, and the collaboration with reference academic partners, are very good tangible examples of what can be done in this area.”

Additional resources: <http://ec.europa.eu/eit/>

**Odile Quentin, Director General Youth, Education and Culture at the European Commission**

“I would like to convey my congratulations to Microsoft and to its new partners in Paris, London and Munich, on the establishment of the new European Search Technology Centre. This represents a significant investment in addition to Microsoft's already important presence in Europe's research infrastructure. “

“For me, today's announcement has further significance in the way that it underlines the value of - and, indeed, the need for - partnership between innovative businesses and high-quality universities. We in the Commission have been seeking to build the understanding among governments, enterprises and the education and research community that such partnerships represent the way forward for Europe as it builds on its ambition to be at the forefront of the global knowledge economy. Building the knowledge triangle of business, education and research is key to our future. We in the Commission seek to promote that message at every opportunity. And partnership of this kind will be the hallmark of our own flagship initiative, the creation of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) which is just now beginning its operations.”

“Today's announcement is important in itself for the jobs it creates and for the innovations it will deliver in years to come. It is also important in the way that it highlights the road ahead for all of us. Once again, I congratulate Microsoft and its partners in the university world and I urge others to follow in the path that you are taking.”

United Kingdom

**Boris Johnson, Mayor of London**"Even in these uncertain times, the world's largest software manufacturer is demonstrating its confidence in our capital. Microsoft's decision is proof, if any were needed, that London offers access to a wealth of highly skilled talent and along with other factors makes it a destination of choice for international investors."

**John Hutton, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform**

“Microsoft’s decision to establish a European Search Technology Centre in the UK demonstrates the immense depth of research and development talent available in this country. The UK is a European leader in the communications and software industries and this Centre and the new jobs it will create will provide an excellent opportunity to grow and develop these skills. We look forward to working with Microsoft to make this Centre a success.”

Germany

**Christian Ude, Lord Mayor of Munich**

“I am very pleased and appreciate emphatically that Microsoft will open a new center for Internet search technology in Munich. Munich is the home of various high-potential IT scientists and software engineers. At the same time, our city offers with its many technology enterprises and research facilities, a brilliant climate for innovation and environment. Employees in Munich also profit from the recreational value in Munich and its surroundings. In short: Munich is the ideal place for Microsoft to reach its business goals.”

**Eberhard Sinner, Minister of State of the Bavarian Chancellery**

“Microsoft’s investment in Bavaria is a clear signal of the company’s confidence in and commitment to our region. Time after time we have seen our investment in Bavarian high technology infrastructure pay off. Microsoft’s new investment is not only in search, but in our region, its skilled workforce and growing ICT economy.”